

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /082 W

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R 051600Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4263

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ, PO

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY; PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT
PROTEST

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 111

1. SUMMARY; NOTICIANS FEB 5 CARRIED FRONT PAGE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNI-
QUE CLARIFYING PRESIDENT MACHEL'S SPEECH OF FEB 3

ON NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY AND SETTING FORTH IN DE-
TAIL WHAT IS TO BE NATIONALIZED. CLARIFICATION REPRESENTS SMALL-
STEP BACK, BUT IT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE GREETED WARMLY BY PROPERTY
OWNERS. PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS PROTESTED GPRM ACTIONS.

END SUMMARY.

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2. IN HIS FEB 3 SPEECH, PRESIDENT MACHEL DECLARED THAT ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY IN MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE NATIONALIZED. HOWEVER, PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED FEB 5, WHICH COMMITS COUNTRY TO HEALTHY DOSE OF NATIONALIZATION, IS NOT NEARLY AS BROAD AND ATTEMPTS TO DEFINE SIMPLY WHY NATIONALIZATION IS TAKING PLACE AND WHAT SPECIFIC PROPERTY IS TO BE AFFECTED. SPECIFICALLY COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT NATIONALIZATION OF PROPERTY HAS BEEN EFFECTED IN ORDER TO PERMANENTLY END "RACIAL AND SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AND CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION" THAT LED MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE TO RESIDE IN CERTAIN AREAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE AND SOCIAL CLASS AND WHICH FURTHER LED TO THE ENRICHMENT "OF THE COLONIAL BOURGEOISIE." COMMUNIQUE THEN DECLARES THAT:

A. EACH FAMILY IS ENTITLED TO ONLY ONE PERMANENT RESIDENCE (AND ONE SEASIDE OR COUNTRY ABODE);

B. ALL BUILDINGS, PART OF BUILDINGS, COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL WHICH ARE RENTED ARE IMMEDIATELY NATIONALIZED;

C. OLD AGE RETIREES OR PHYSICALLY DISABLED PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO LIVE OFF OF RENTAL PROPERTY INCOME WILL BE GIVEN GOVERNMENT PENSIONS:

D. COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID ONLY ON NATIONALIZED BUILDINGS WHERE OWNERS HAVE NOT AMORTIZED THEIR INVESTMENTS;

E. AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SEVERAL PROPERTIES CAN CHOOSE THE ONE HE DESIRES TO LIVE;

F. NO IMMOVABLE PROPERTY CAN BE SOLD WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL;

G. INCOMPLETE AND UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS REVERT TO THE STATE; AND

H. THE MONTEPIO DE MOCAMBIQUE (SAVINGS BANK) WILL ADMINISTER, MANAGE, MAINTAIN AND COLLECT RENTS ON STATE PROPERTY.

3. COMMUNIQUE CLOSES BY SAYING THAT MOZAMBIQUE CITIES MUST HAVE MOZAMBIQUE FACE AND THAT THE PEOPLE (AFRICANS) WILL NOW BE ABLE TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN CITIES AND NOT JUST IN THE "BACKYARDS."

4. PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PROTEST: ACCORDING TO SABC GOP HAS ISSUED FORMAL PROTEST CONDEMNING GPRM NATIONALIZATIONS, AS WELL AS GPRM'S CONTINUED DETENTION AND HARASSMENT OF REMAINING GOP CITIZENS (LM 068)

5. COMMENT: AFRICAN COMMUNITY HAS GREETED NATIONALIZATIONS WARMLY, AS MANY AFRICANS NOW EXPECT TO BE BENEFICIARIES OF GOVERNMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY IS WEARING A LONG FACE DESPITE THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED EVERYONE TO KEEP ONE HOUSE (AND IN A GOOD PETITE BOURGEOISIE WAY A COUNTRY OR BEACH ABODE). LINES IN FRONT OF THE PORTUGUESE CONSULATE WERE THREE TIMES LONGER THAN USUAL THIS MORNING AND NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS HAVE REMARKED TO EMBOFFS THEY PLAN TO THROW IN THE TOWEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. ALTHOUGH SABC BROADCAST DID NOT MENTION IT, PORTUGUESE PROTECT PROBABLY BASED ON APPARENT VIOLATION OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1974, LUSAKA ACCORD BETWEEN GOP AND FRELIMO. IN THAT ACCORD FRELIMO PROMISED TO RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND RIGHTS OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS. HOWEVER, PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PROTEST WILL NOT BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY HERE AS RELATIONS WITH GPRM HAVE CONTINUED TO SOUR SINCE NOVEMBER OKSTER OF GONCALVES, CARVALHO AND COMPANY IN LISBON.

7. AN INTERESTING ASIDE TO NATIONALIZATION MOVE IS FACT THAT MACHEL'S ORIGINAL FEB 3 SPEECH DID NOT INCLUDE THE EXTENSIVE NATIONALIZATION HE ANNOUNCEDOR WHICH WERE ELABORATE IN FEB 5 COMMUNIQUE. ORIGINAL SPEECH CALLED ONLY FOR NATIONALIZATION OF GROWING NUMBER OF UNOCCUPIED, PARTIALLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS IN FORMERLY HEAVILY EUROPEAN AREAS OF THE CITIES, PARTICULARLY MAPUTO (LOURENCO MARQUES). CAUGHT UP IN THE FERVOR OF THE OCCASION HE DISGRESED FROM PREPARED TEXT AND INSTANTLY NATIONILIZED EVERYTHING.

HASTILY PUBLISHED PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE OF FEB 5 WAS MENT TO BRING NATIONALIZATIONS BACK INTO PRESCRIBED LIMITS.

8. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON STATE OF EMBASSY PROPERTY.
CARSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, SPEECHES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LOUREN00115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760044-0628
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacrxx.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY; PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PROTEST
TAGS: PINT, MZ, PO, (MACHEL, SAMORA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006